



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Bringing Dance and Film Together

West Potomac Academy Professional Television Production and Dance students collaborated to produce a film festival and dance performance, "It's Personal," on May 12, and May 13. Afternoon dance class students: Lucy Regnall, Vanessa Uriona, Esmerelda Soto Cerros, Katherine Kranz, (front) Courtney Darlington, Bernice Kear, (front) Lillian Soto Cerros, Kate Krawczel, Blanca Cruz, Don Smith and Katie Skinner.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 3.

A Question of Honor — and Reduced Choices

Families advocate for honors in addition to AP classes.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

Parents across Fairfax County are asking school officials to put more honors classes back into the course offerings at area high schools, particularly for 11th and 12th graders.

FAIRGRADE - a parent advocacy group that successfully got Fairfax County's grading policies changed two years ago - has passed a resolution asking for the county to implement a more robust honors program in high schools. The countywide "restore honors" movement originated at West Potomac High School, where parents dis-

covered that existing honors courses for upperclassmen might be eliminated.

Last month, the West Potomac High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) also passed its own resolution asking the school system to retain honors courses for its 11th and 12th graders.

Honors classes are important for those students who might not be prepared to take an Advanced Placement (AP) course, which is supposed to be college level work, but need a greater challenge than general education classes provide, according to supporters.

Yet Superintendent Jack Dale said the school system is trying to avoid a "three tier" system, where upper-class students are di-

vided up between AP classes, honors classes and general education classes for a single subject area.

"This is going to be a work session topic for the school board this summer. We don't want too many tracks or layers of course offerings," said Dale during a town hall meeting at Walt Whitman Middle School last month.

A FEW YEARS AGO, Fairfax County started to eliminate honors-level classes for English 11, English 12, World History 2, U.S. History and U.S. Government at most high schools where the school system offered Advanced Placement courses in these subjects.

Students can still take honors level English and history courses as freshmen and sophomores, when AP level courses are largely unavailable to them. But at many high schools, they can only enroll in either AP or take the general education courses in English and history as juniors and seniors.

West Potomac High School is a notable exception, where a few honors classes for 11th and 12th graders still exist despite the AP program. When the school system started to phase out honors classes, a group of parents fought to keep the courses at West Potomac, saying there was a strong need for a middle option in that high school community, said School Board Member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon.)

"West Potomac is one of the few AP

SEE A QUESTION, PAGE 14

Van Dyck: Restore Honors Courses at West Potomac

Parents oppose two-tier approach to curriculum.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Kate Van Dyck is the founding member of the parent advocacy group, Real World, Real Grades, and most recently now called Restore Honors Courses (RHC). Her group was formed several months ago when she and others realized the scope of the West Potomac High School

principal's curriculum, grading and testing policy changes — which she alleges were instituted without parent consultation.

She and a group of concerned parents — which has grown and spread throughout the county — mounted an effort against the changes — resulting in the principal rescinding the new grading and testing policies. The now rescinded policies would have al-

lowed students who failed a test to, instead of receiving an "F", have been granted an incomplete and allowed to retake the test at any time before the end of the school year and receive whatever grade they earned the second time, as if they never took the test the first time. Another change would have been to waive an automatic "F" for those students caught cheating on a test. Instead,

his policy change would have the student caught cheating to be referred for counseling.

The third part of West Potomac High School principal's effort to

change education policies is the elimination of the Honors (college prep or middle tier) courses at the

SEE FIGHTING, PAGE 5





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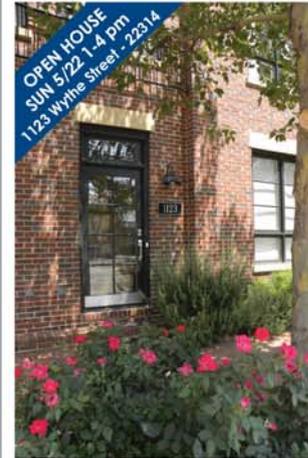
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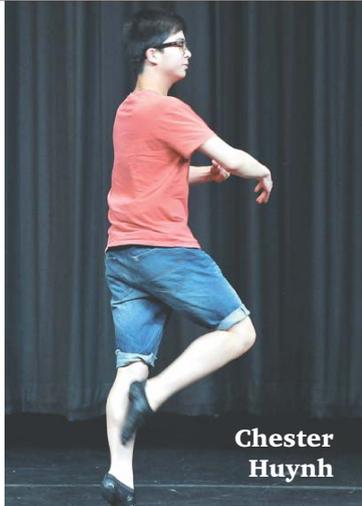
Bringing Dance and Film Together

West Potomac Academy Professional Television Production and Dance students collaborated to produce a film festival and dance performance, "It's Personal," on May 12 and 13 in the West Potomac High School auditorium. Films produced by the Professional TV Production students for "It's Personal" were based on life-changing events, decisions, and occurrences that happen daily and send people on different pathways in life. The theme also drove the dance choreography. All films and choreography contained shared elements such as a common line of dialogue, prop, and location relating to the theme.

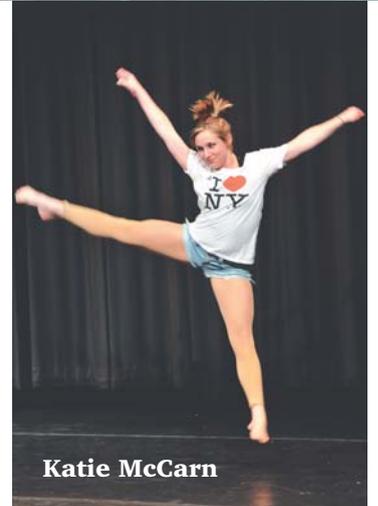
The film festival and dance concert combined production was under the direction of Professional TV Production instructor Nancy Mantelli and Dance instructor Courtney Betzel.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Chester Huynh



Katie McCarn



Other Side of the Street

Supervisor McKay calls on developers to pay for transportation infrastructure opposite Kings Crossing.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

The Penn Daw Shopping Center has seen better days. The run-down parking lot of the Shoppers Food Warehouse isn't what it used to be now that the Wal-Mart opened across the street. And the crazy quilt of intersecting roads poses a safety hazard for motorists and pedestrians alike. That's why developer Combined Properties submitted an area plan review nomination to redevelop the property in the near future.

But Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay wasn't having it.

He thought the Combined Properties nomination was too short sighted, considering only the shopping center property without taking into account adjacent parcels. There's another shopping center nearby as well as some vacant and blighted

land, both of which he said should be part of the planning process. Failing to include them would have created what McKay called "spot zoning." As a result, the supervisor said, the planning document presented by Combined Properties "didn't pass the economic smell test."

"I'm not going to sit by and let this shopping center die on the vine," said McKay, who appointed a task force to investigate. "I don't want the plan to reflect only what the residents want or only what the developers want. It's got to be a compromise if this is going to work."

McKay said that compromise is going to lean on the development community to redesign the flawed intersection. The supervisor said he doesn't want to "sit around and watch my hair go gray" waiting for the Virginia Department of Transportation to fix the problem. The issue has taken an increased significance now that the Wal-Mart

on the other side of the Richmond Highway has created a situation that has frustrated many motorists.

"Our officers have observed that traffic from the left turn lane does back up into the left lane of Route 1," said Lt. Mike Wall of the Mount Vernon District Station. "Having cars stopped in traffic can be dangerous, but I wouldn't say it's anything out of the ordinary for the driving public."

Instead of waiting for VDOT to pay for redesigning the three-way intersection, McKay was to persuade his fellow members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to remove this property from the APR nomination process and launch a special study. When it's all said and done, McKay said, he hopes he'll be able to create a planning document that takes into account the infrastructure needs of the redevelopment. That would be a drastic departure from the failed planning that took place across the



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

A developer is proposing a redevelopment plan for the Penn Daw shopping center.

street at Kings Crossing, where cars clog the southbound lane outside a new Wal-Mart. Instead of waiting for VDOT to fund improvements, developers would be expected to pick up the tab.

"VDOT has about 350,000 fewer employees than it did when I was first elected," said Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), who was first elected in 2003. "We haven't given them a real infusion of money in the last 25 years."

Now the shopping center is at somewhat of a crossroads — literally and figuratively. It's difficult

for it to survive in its current form, and development pressures are driven in part by the location's proximity to a nearby Metro station. That's why McKay is so interested in making sure residents and developers are both able to work toward a solution.

"We want this plan to be something that everybody is going to agree to," he said. "And I think this is something that we'll be able to do with other properties along the Richmond Highway corridor."

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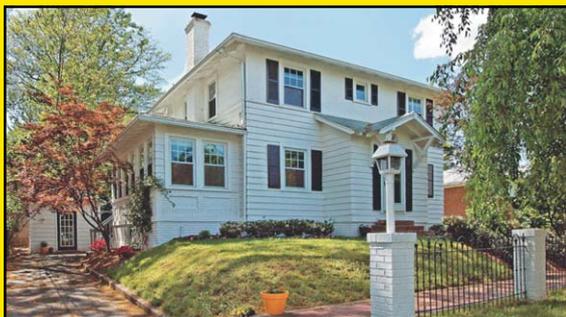
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Profile

KATE VAN DYCK

Age: 57
Education: Dual bachelor's degrees in education and special education, University of Maryland. Master's degree in special education, Johns Hopkins University
Current Employment: Early Intervention Teacher, Prince Georges County Public Schools.
Marital Status: Married to Chuck Van Dyck. Two children: Jenna and Ben.

Kate Van Dyck is the founding member of the Restore Honors Courses Parent Group.



Fighting for Honors Courses

FROM PAGE 1

10th, 11th, and 12th grades in Calculus, English, and Social Studies. Without the middle tier honors program, a student who does not qualify or was unsuccessful in an AP class would have to enroll in the General Education program instead of an Honors course. The middle tier or college prep courses would no longer be an option for a student. This policy change remains in force.

Real World, Real Grades' efforts in objecting to the curricula change resulted in the formation, by the principal, of two study groups; one for assessment and learning review, and the other called advanced academics review. Van Dyck is skeptical that these study groups are delaying tactics. She asked: "Where is the data to support the change to a two tier system and how do these school-based study groups qualify to recommend changes that are system-wide in scope?"

Since the study groups were formed, Real World, Real Grades changed its name to Restore Honors Courses (RHC) and are now building change not only among West Potomac parents but county-wide. RHC recently was successful in crafting and mobilizing support for a West Potomac PTA resolution which calls on the school system to restore the Honors courses at West Potomac. In addition, they were able to receive the support of the W.T. Woodson High

School parent group which passed a similar resolution. Four other high school parent groups have the restore honors courses resolution under active consideration: Langley, McLean, Herndon and Chantilly. Numerous other schools are considering the Honors issue, according to Van Dyck.

What was the defining moment or event when you decided to pursue restoration of the honors curriculum?

Van Dyck: When my request for written justification (data and rationale) went unanswered, despite repeated attempts. I wrote to the principal (Cliff Hardison), the Cluster 4 Superintendent (Scott Brabrand), the Superintendent (Jack Dale), and the Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck. None of the responses, in those instances when they answered, provided justification to support the decision, and this continues today. In addition, when we requested information on the policy change the school system insisted on charging our group a fee of \$2,000 pursuant to a policy which allows them to charge a fee under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). We declined to pay the fee since it is information which should be readily available to taxpaying parents.

SEE FIGHTING, PAGE 6

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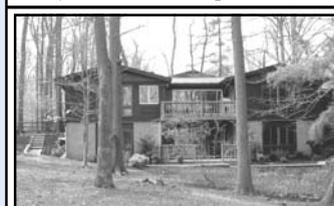
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Fighting for Honors Courses

FROM PAGE 5

What successes can you point to since your Real World, Real Grades, and your newly constituted organization, Restore Honors Courses (RHC) was formed?

Van Dyck: In addition to eliminating the new grading and cheating policies we can point to the following so far:

- ❖ The Restore Honors Courses (RHC) organization is now a county-wide organization; four other high school parent groups are moving in the direction to pass resolutions to restore honors courses. Several others are considering our position to restore the honors courses.

- ❖ Active participation and networking of approximately 300 West Potomac parents in our RHC group.

- ❖ Joint participation with a county-wide organization, Fair Grades, in the development of a county-wide online petition drive to restore and add Honors courses. Fair Grades has approximately 8,000 members on their ListServe. They are also linked to an even larger parent and teacher group, the Fairfax Education Coalition. So, the active support and partnership with these county-wide organizations is a significant accomplishment for our RHC organization.

- ❖ Agreement by the School Board to schedule a July, 2011 work session on the Honors policy. However, we are unhappy about the July 18 schedule date because, even if the Board agreed to restore

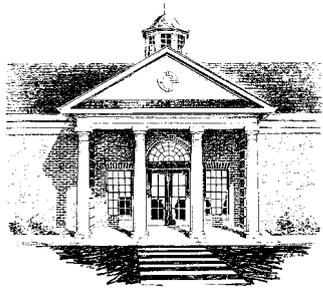
honors courses, July 18 would be too late to be reflected in the curricula design and teacher assignments for next fall. The Superintendent, with the acquiescence of the School Board, has unfairly delayed addressing this issue in time to have an impact on the 2011-12 school year. It is a shameful example of failed leadership. If the honors courses are not restored soon it will prevent students' from enrolling in honors courses in the fall. We are working to move up the work session date.

What are the next steps for your group?

Van Dyck: Jointly work with Fair Grades to circulate and promote the online petition drive county-wide to restore and add honors courses. Also, here in Mount Vernon we will establish a School Board candidate endorsement process. Our motto in this election year is public support for the restoration of honors courses or no support for election. We will be announcing the candidate endorsement process in the weeks ahead, once we know who the candidates will be for Mount Vernon District School Board member and the candidates for At-Large School Board member. We want the candidates who receive our endorsement to agree to sponsor a resolution for the School Board to restore or add honors courses to West Potomac High School and throughout the school system.

SEE VAN DYCK, PAGE 7

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Van Dyck: Restore Honors Courses at West Potomac

FROM PAGE 6

Despite your efforts it is possible you may not be successful in restoring honors courses at West Potomac High School before your daughter, who is now a junior, graduates. Will you continue to fight the honors issue after she leaves WPHS?

Van Dyck: Yes, I will definitely continue, if it doesn't get restored this fall. My son is a freshman and he has several more years to take honors courses. In addition, as a parent and a teacher, for me it is a matter of ethics to do the right thing for my children and for future generations. Our children should not be made a pawn to pursue a highly questionable strategy without the basis for it among academia, and common sense parent groups nationwide. What is at stake is the quality of education for the majority of students attending Fairfax

County public schools. The School Board has abdicated its role as an advocate for the best interests of our children. I am reminded of the statement by one education researcher who said, and I quote, "High hopes and good intention are rarely in short supply in public policy. They are never sufficient to get bad policy to yield good results." — Paul Peterson, 1998, Education Week.

Eliminating the honors program seems to me to be a fundamental change in education policy for one of the largest school systems in the nation. When did the School Board approve the policy change, and what was the vote?

Van Dyck: Amazingly, the School Board never publicly debated and did not vote on the policy change. Again, it appears as if the Superintendent and his leadership team decided, for reasons one can only speculate about, that it was necessary to accom-

plish certain goals known only to them, and went ahead without any public debate, and apparently without any research or survey data or rationale to support it. I can only conclude that the School Board basically abdicated its authority and role as an advocate for the children and parents it serves and yielded to the Superintendent's administrative authority.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Van Dyck: I began this effort on behalf of my own two children. But now I believe this effort, if we are successful, will definitely benefit all children. Common sense tells us that children need to have multiple learning options to better meet their needs in different subjects in order to be successful learners. Also, research tells us that limiting those options does not close the achieve-

SEE FIGHTING, PAGE 10

Honors Resolution

The West Potomac High School PTSA passed the following resolution urging the restoration of the honors courses to the curricula:

Resolved, that the West Potomac HS PTSA ... requests the FCPS School Board take the steps necessary to restore and /or establish honors level courses for Calculus, English 11 and 12; and Social Studies 10, 11, and 12; and be it further resolved that:

1. Said restored/established courses shall meet the academic rigor needed to prepare career and college-bound students, offer a real continuum of learning achievement levels and be open to all students looking for academic rigor in their areas of strength; and
2. In acknowledgement of the rigor and higher academic achievement standards for Honors courses shall carry an extra half grade point as established by the current grading scale of FCPS.
3. FCPS School Board shall establish benchmarks for Honors courses. The establishment of benchmarks shall not delay the restoration of Honors courses.



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OPINION

Reminder on Emergency Preparedness

While images of most natural emergencies — hurricanes, floods, tornadoes — seem remote from the D.C. suburbs, last month more than a dozen tornadoes touched down in our area.

Many households in our area have suffered through multiple-day power outages related to snowstorms and thunderstorms.

Virginia's annual hurricane preparedness sales tax holiday is next week, May 25-31, 2011. During this seven-day period, purchases of "hurricane and emergency preparedness equipment" will be exempt from the Virginia sales tax.

As long as they cost \$60 or less each, items including batteries, flashlights, tarps, rope, duct tape, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, bottled water, first aid kits, and many others,

will be tax-free. Portable generators priced at \$1,000 or less are also included.

This is one of three tax holidays in Virginia; a three-day sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing begins on the first Friday in August, and the four-day holiday for Energy Star qualified products is in mid-October.

For good information on emergency preparation, see www.readyvirginia.gov; for details on the sales tax holidays, see www.tax.virginia.gov.

EDITORIALS

Father's Day Photo Gallery, and More

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19, and once again the Gazette will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos in jpeg format as soon as possible, including the full names of all the people in the picture, hometowns, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

PROMS AND ... While Gazette photographers and writers will likely attend some proms as schedules permit, we also urge parents and students to document their proms (or alternative activities) and send in photos in jpeg format, and also including who, what, where, when and why.

We're also interested in other events at your school, church, synagogue or mosque, milestone events, etc.

Email photos to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drivers as Bad as Traffic

To the Editor:

Traffic is constantly increasing especially on roads like Route 1. Some drivers practice the following rules of the road. Do they seem familiar?

- ❖ Don't signal when changing lanes or turning - keep drivers guessing.

- ❖ Ignore stop and yield signs - why wait?

- ❖ Straddle and hog lanes - give yourself plenty of room

- ❖ When lanes are blocked, drive on shoulders of road it helps beat the rush.

- ❖ Swing wide before turning-

avoid hitting curb.

- ❖ Always ride bumper of car ahead to make drivers go faster.

- ❖ Dash into oncoming traffic so you can make a turn at the next block at corner or intersection.

- ❖ Don't slow down before stopping - slam brakes to shake-up driver behind you.

- ❖ When traffic light shows amber, don't stop but pull into intersection and then stop - block traffic that's the idea.

- ❖ Always drive slowly in travel lanes, don't worry about speed limits or those that want to pass. Be a convoy leader or self-appointed policeman.

- ❖ Why be courteous to other drivers - you have as much right on the road as they do.

- ❖ When windows are covered with frost, only one or two small peep holes are needed for adequate visibility.

- ❖ When the car in front of you uses a signal to change to your lane, blow the horn and step on the gas. Don't let the car in because you will lose one car length.

- ❖ When exiting, cross one or two lanes to make sure that other drivers are alert.

Obviously none of these rules promote safe driving. Always be courteous and obey traffic laws and make driving a pleasure and safe for everyone.

Frank Medico
Mount Vernon

Illegal Posting Of Signs

To the Editor:

This is a response to the published letter to the editor in the May 5 issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette. The author of the letter urges a ban on roadside signs on public property. Such a law does exist. According to the Virginia Code All signs are illegal in the right of way unless they are VDOT signs. But as I understand it, little is done to actually enforce the laws.

In 2007 I wrote a letter to a local paper that was published. In it I thanked Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland for organizing the picking up of these illegal signs along Route 1. As far as I know the illegal signs would be 15 feet from the middle of the road, or look the other way 15 feet from the edge of the roadside. The islands at crossroads count in this regard. On a given day one sees perhaps 5-10-15, signs at Belle View Boulevard or at the island off Fort Hunt Road and Sherwood Hall Lane. When I wrote the piece about roadside signs the fine was \$100 per illegal sign. I sometimes think when I see those dozen or more signs what they could mean as monies for the county. In a given day it might mean many thousands of dollars. This is an issue that comes up frequently with supervisor, and there has been little progress in having the county take a stand against illegal signs.

If you are a member of the Adopt-A-Highway program you can remove them during a cleanup. You can call VDOT or the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Snapshot 2:25 p.m., May 11: West Potomac High School Varsity Softball team repaints the school rock in honor of senior night at the game.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

sign. But you may recall a man who removed signs in his neighborhood and he was fined. It advised not to remove them as people have been arrested and prosecuted for taking up signs. Once there is clearance from that 15 feet from the center of a roadway the area can be private property. Then there must be permission of any owner to erect signs. But no permits are issued to roadside signs according to conversations with VDOT, but rules could have changed. While political signs are allowed during election time there actually are rules and regs for them. When I saw 20 huge signs for the same candidate at one corner, my husband and I decided not to vote for that person

Why not a task force of citizens and county agencies to work with this situation? How about planting low care wildflowers or perennials at those corner bits of land, as I have seen in Europe?

Nancy Ford-Kohne
Alexandria

Investing In Students

To the Editor:

Jason Pittman's well-deserved

international award for teaching science at Hollin Meadows school reaffirms the importance of science education. And it also reminds us that young kids can and should learn science; they just need great teachers and engaging, hands-on programs.

Walk through Hollin Meadows Elementary School in Fairfax County, and you'll see the walls covered with pictures and details about student science projects and their outdoor gardens. Walk around outside and you'll see gardens, trees, solar powered equipment and students getting their hands dirty, measuring, digging, planning, taking notes and asking questions about all of it.

The school is attracting national attention — including a visit from Michelle Obama — for this hands-on program that includes a learning garden and talented science and math coordinators. Educators at Hollin Meadows have narrowed achievement gaps between economically disadvantaged and more affluent students over a short number of years, and reading and math scores have gone up.

There's only one problem: Sustaining this success has been a huge chore. It shouldn't be this way.

At Hollin Meadows, as at so many of our community's schools, budget shortfalls in recent years have forced cutbacks of highly successful programs. Fortunately, Hollin Meadows has put off the cuts thanks to an outpouring of community donations to help maintain their programs. But the fact that parents have to put so much effort into maintaining an academic program that is working (and is relatively inexpensive) forces us to question the way we

prioritize science and math education in our school funding as a state. Parents should not have to raise \$100,000 a year to support a public school program with proven results. Programs like the one at Hollin Meadows should not be unique, they should be everywhere. Hands-on science education helps students achieve and it helps prepare them for the future. That is the kind of investment we should find a way to support.

It seems everywhere we look,

there is talk about the importance of science and math education, specifically in middle or high school. At the recent Virginia Board of Education retreat, science education in middle and high school was a priority topic. Business leaders focus programs on high schools so that graduates are ready for technical jobs, and politicians focus on high school because it seems like the logical place

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 25

THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 2011 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

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A Education • Learning • Fun

Fighting for Honors Courses

FROM PAGE 7

ment gap, reduce the drop-out rate, or promote successful learning. So, why is our public school system eliminating the middle tier courses? Not one administrator up to and including the Superintendent has given us any written rationale that supports this sweeping education policy change. They are stonewalling us, perhaps in the hope that we will tire of the issue and go away. We are not. Most school systems elsewhere in

the U.S. offer three or more learning tiers to best meet the varied needs of their students. Our children rely on us to look out for their well-being. Neglecting the learning needs of the majority of students in our public schools is morally and educationally wrong. And that is why I and a growing number of other parents, teachers, and others who understand what is at stake with this issue and care about what is happening in our school system vow to restore or add Honors courses.

Pennies For Patients

The K-Kids Club at Stratford Landing Elementary School sponsored by the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club raised \$2,798.98 over three weeks for the Pennies For Patients project. This is a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society project where



students donate their spare change to fund blood cancer research and patient aid programs. The K-Kids present a symbolic check to Emily Hansen of the society.



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Just Listed in Belle Haven-Open Sunday



Spacious bi-level located on a quiet street in Belle Haven. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, lower level family room could be 4th bedroom, two fireplaces, updated kitchen, private patio and level rear lot + garage. ~\$559,000.

2310 Windsor Road Alexandria, VA 22307

Open Sunday 1-4 in Alexandria City



Delightful 3BR, 2BA brick colonial, screened porch, updated kitchen w/granite countertops, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, garage, great close-in location, and lovely level lot with mature plantings. ~\$709,900

2407 Ridge Road Drive Alexandria, VA 22302

Just Listed on East Boulevard



Stately all brick custom colonial on one acre in a private park setting. 3 car gar, over 6500 finished sq ft, 5+ bedrooms, 4.5 baths on 3 fully finished levels. Professional kitchen, master suite w/ wet bar & sitting room, 4 fireplaces, high ceilings, wine room, gym, large mud room, beautiful porch off kitchen, and handsome millwork ~\$1,995,000

8108 East Boulevard Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House

Stately brick townhouse built in 1780 was once the residence of Henry Lee



and his family which included son Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horseshair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could be used for either or both and offers seven off street parking spaces! ~\$1,950,000

611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

New Price in Tauxemont



Completely renovated and almost new. One level living! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths on half acre. Large eat-in kitchen w/ vaulted ceiling, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, cherry cabinets, glass backsplash & gas fireplace. Spacious great room w/ stone fireplace, master bedroom suite w/ top of the line bathroom, walk in closet + 2 additional closets. Backs to neighborhood tennis courts. ~\$699,000

1401 Namassin Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Custom Home along the GW Parkway



5 bedroom, 5.5 baths, two story Great Room w/ Palladian Windows & coffered ceiling overlook stone terrace w/fountain. 10' ceilings on first floor. 2 MBR's main & upper floor w/ balcony and steam shower. Open Kitchen w/ center island, commercial appliances, breakfast rm. Custom Laundry rm. Concrete counters and rustic bar in lower lvl exercise, office ~\$1,595,000

9060 Tower House Place Alexandria, VA 22308

Elegant Belle Haven Home



Stately 7 bedroom, 5.5 bath 1940's brick colonial. Renovated in 2006, this home offers lovely moldings & architectural detail, hardwood floors, slate roof, copper gutters & downspouts, light filled living room, spacious formal dining room w/ fireplace and French doors leading to a private patio, gourmet chef's kitchen, cozy family room, luxurious master bedroom & walk in closet, master spa bath, fabulous rec room w/ stone fireplace, wet bar and 600 bottle wine cellar, and a large brick patio overlooking a rolling lawn. ~\$1,670,000



1906 Belle Haven Road Alexandria, VA 22307

Like New In Plymouth Haven



Inviting and refreshing southern style with front and back porches custom built and only 3 years young! 6700 finished sq feet on half lush acre. Dual staircases, modern open floor plan, easy entertaining flow, 6 BRs, 4.5 baths, 3 car garage, wide wood floors, 3 fireplaces, fabulous master suite, chef's kitchen Exercise, music and game rooms, walk up attic, study. Steps from Ft. Hunt Park! ~\$1,550,000



8839 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22308

Charming in Old Town

Delightful 2BR, 2BA brick townhouse featuring



crown molding and chair rail, hardwood floors updated kitchen with granite counters, rec room with full bath on lower level with outside entrance to lovely private deck, stone patio and garden ~\$539,000

912 South Alfred Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Stunning Colonial in Belle Haven



Beautiful, light filled colonial perfect for elegant entertaining as well as comfortable family living. Offering a two story foyer, tall ceilings, gracious formal rooms, gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces beautiful master suite with a vaulted ceiling, six bedrooms, five and one half baths, exceptional built-in bookshelves and cabinets, wonderful family room and recreation room with fireplaces, two private decks, and two car garage. ~\$1,599,900



1912 Glen Drive Alexandria, VA 22307

New Price in Kings Cloister



Bright & open in cul-de-sac backing to trees. Cooks kitchen w/ island & sunny breakfast room opens to tiered deck w/ landscape & exterior lighting. 4 bedrooms, library, large dining room, foyer & living room, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage—a car lovers DREAM w/ heat, flooring & built-ins. Wood floors on main & upper levels, + 2 custom staircases w/ iron railing. Recently finished rec room ~\$1,495,000

624 Kings Cloister Circle Alexandria, VA 22302

One Level Living in Wellington!



One level living! Owners have spared no expense in updating home. Hardwood floors, ceramic tile, plantation shutters, custom built-ins, renovated eat-in kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances, granite countertops & family room and study off kit. Neutral bathrooms, 3 large bedrooms +office/den, 3 full baths, tons of closet space, large patio and deck great for entertaining! ~\$775,000



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George Washington Park \$759,900
714 West View Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22301

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Sherry York 703-409-3377



George Washington Park \$879,900
607 West View Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22301

Open Sunday 1-4pm. Delightful & gorgeous home, located just blocks to the King St Metro! 4BR, 3BA, recent expansion and kitchen renovation. Nicely finished lower level, lovely deck, large lot, long driveway & garage. Pristine condition.



Sherry York 703-409-3377



River Towers \$249,000
6621 Wakefield Drive #408, Alexandria, VA 22307

Open Sunday 1-4pm. Move right into this lovely two bedroom, 1.5 bath River Towers condo. Features newly renovated kitchen. Located on 26 landscaped acres with many amenities and ample free parking.



Denise Davis 571-332-8531



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Carol Hooks 703-509-4199



Potomac Greens \$799,000
1719 Potomac Greens Drive, Alexandria, VA 22314

Luxury Living! Luxurious EYA 4 level townhome in Potomac Greens. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, den with French doors, living room with built-ins & upgraded kitchen. Family room, upper level deck, plantation shutters & 2 car garage.



Carol Hooks 703-509-4199



Old Town \$995,000
320 North Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Private Mews Setting! Four finished levels plus floored attic, kitchen with granite & stainless. Hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, 4BR, 3 full & 2.5 half BA. Recessed lighting, ample closets, large walled patio & excellent condition.



Gayl Warman 703-309-8792



Edsall Park \$379,000
5312 Blacksburg Road, Springfield, VA 22151

Open Sunday 1-4pm. Beautifully updated. Freshly painted 4BR, two level rambler with refinished HW flrs, new designer blinds throughout, upgraded electrical system, new ceiling with recessed lights and Berber carpet in FR.



Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



Popkins Heights \$595,000
2424 Ross Street, Alexandria, VA 22306

Best Buy in South Alexandria! **Open Sunday 1-4pm.** Nearly new (15 yrs) 6BR, 3BA colonial with deck & 2 car garage. Beautifully landscaped 2/3 acre lot with vegetable garden. Country kitchen adjoining FR, gas fireplace and more.



Ed Pagett 703-518-6161



Carlyle Towers \$495,000
2121 Jamieson Ave #1001, Alexandria, VA 22314

Open Sunday 1-4pm. Largest 2 bedroom unit! Great eat-in kitchen opening to a glass enclosed balcony. Separate DR, 2 baths, foyer plus 2 car garage parking and storage. Envious view of Masonic Temple! www.CarlyleTowers1-1001.com



Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Kirk \$464,500
8109 Karl Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

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Cindee Jackson 703-625-7667



Old Town \$1,850,000
17 Wharf Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Elegance and Character Luxurious 4 level townhouse near Old Town. Gleaming hardwood floors, spacious LR, DR, master suite and bath. 2BR, loft, eat-in kitchen and granite counters. Waterfront view of the Nation's Capital from every level.



Grace Albritton 703-508-0617



The Plaza \$279,000 & \$335,000
803 North Howard #262 & 805 North Howard #135

Open Sunday 1-3pm. Large 2BR/2BA with den and 2BR/2BA with DR. Updated kitchen, appliances, fresh paint & neutral carpet. Washer/dryer & parking.



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Old Town
\$945,000

114 Franklin Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314

Located just one block to the Potomac River, this bright and sunny four level brick 3BR, 3.5 bath townhome features HW floors, 2 FPs, den, loft studio & a fabulous gourmet country kitchen. This is an outstanding value!



Donnan C. Wintermute
703-518-6156



Old Town **\$3,175,000**

712 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Circa 1802, this exceptionally grand 5BR & 5BA features a 38 ft entrance hall with keystone archway, 12.5 ft ceilings, elaborate moldings, original pine floors & 5 fireplaces! Loads of storage, wine cellar plus off-street parking! Reasonably priced.



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Old Town **\$3,900,000**

414 Franklin Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Sited on a half acre beautifully landscaped lot in the heart of Old Town, this exceptionally charming 5BR & 4.5 BA brick home boasts pine flrs, 5 fireplaces, pool plus two car garage. Owner will hold first trust at 2.5% for 7 years! A great value!



Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



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Liz Bucuvalas 703-626-8400



Kingstowne

\$399,000

5312 Ridley Court,
Alexandria, VA 22315

Wonderful townhouse with upgrades galore! 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwoods throughout main level, kitchen upgraded with granite counters and SS appliances. Two designated parking spaces! Close to Metro and Beltway!



Liz Bucuvalas
703-626-8400



Hollin Hall Village **\$489,000**

1909 Jamestown, Alexandria, VA 22308

Charming 3 bedroom & 2 bath home with lush gardens in Wayneswood School District. Hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces and screen porch. Near shopping, dining and entertainment with a short commute to DC.



Karen Leonard 703-328-7041



Riverside/Fort Hunt **\$675,000**

8311 Crown Court Road, Alexandria, VA 22308

New Price! Great value in 22308 with 4 ample bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 car garage, flat fenced backyard, new hardwoods and many updates. Located on a cul-de-sac and a short distance to Stratford Elementary!



Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



Captain's Row

\$1,250,000

126 Prince Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314

One Block to River. Located on Captain's Row along the cobblestones and elegance of the 18th century, this sunny semi-detached home has been completely restored with amenities of the 21st century, but captures the essence of 1783.



Bonnie Rivkin
703-598-7788



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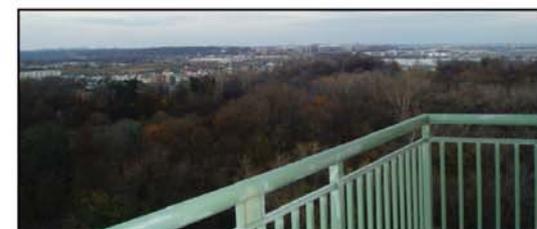
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A Question of Honor — and Reduced Choices

FROM PAGE 1

schools that has not had all of their honors classes phased out," said Storck.

There are several other county high schools without AP programs that still offer honors courses to juniors and seniors.

Those campuses that only have International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, like Mount Vernon High School, still have honors English and history in the upper grades. According to the school system, it kept honors courses at these schools because no IB equivalent exists for many classes, like U.S. Government and U.S. History.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology also offers honors courses to upper classmen, despite having a robust AP program.

PARENTS SAID they would like a "middle option" for students who don't have an interest in or are not prepared to take AP English or history classes, which are supposed to be the equivalent of college-level courses.

"The honors curriculum exists at Thomas Jefferson. It wouldn't be that difficult to implement in other high schools. Don't you think there is a difference between college-level work and college preparatory work?"

said Michelle Menapace, former head of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs and a Hayfield Secondary School parent.

According to FAIRGRADE, students fail roughly 30 percent of AP exams taken at the county's base high schools. That statistic alone proves that many students might be better suited to honor classes, rather than a more advanced AP course, for certain subjects, said Megan McLaughlin, one of the founders of FAIRGRADE.

Parents are also concerned about high-achieving students being pushed to take too many AP classes, which tend to be very demanding. Students who are already enrolled three or four other AP courses shouldn't feel pressured to take AP English or history, simply because there is no honors option.

"Montgomery County, Loudoun County and Howard County all have honors, general ed and AP classes for students in the upper grades," said McLaughlin.

THERE IS an incentive for Fairfax County Public Schools to pull back on its honors program if it means more students enroll in AP courses as juniors and seniors.

The U.S. News and World Report annual "best high school" rankings are based on how many AP and IB exams are taken per student. In other words, the more exams

each student takes, the higher their high school will appear in the rankings.

Oddly, the outcome of the exams is not a factor in the school's overall placement on the list. Having students who sit for the AP and IB exams they don't pass doesn't have a negative impact on a school's ranking.

Fairfax County high schools tend to place very well in the U.S. News and World Report list every year. Several schools make the list of "Top 100 High Schools" in the country and all are typically ranked among the top 500 high schools.

To the extent that honors classes may draw students out of AP courses, it could hurt local high schools ranking on this influential list and perhaps affect the school system's reputation more broadly.

But an expansion of honors courses would not be without its benefits for individual students.

Students receive an extra half-point bump in their grade point average [GPA] for honors classes in addition to a full-point bump for AP and IB classes. So, for example, a B in a regular class would be factored into a student's GPA as a 3.0. but as a 3.5 in an honors class. In an AP or IB class, the B gets factored in as a 4.0 for GPA purposes.

Weighted grading for honors courses is a fairly new concept in Fairfax County and,

when the school system started phasing out honors courses in the upper grades a few years ago, this GPA bump did not exist.

Part of the impetus for bringing back more honors classes for juniors and seniors now could be coming from families who think the honors bump in grades could have a large impact on their children's overall GPA, said Storck.

STORCK said he supports adding more honors coursework back into the curriculum, though he would take a slightly different approach than the one parents have been advocating.

Instead of creating separate honors classes for 11th and 12 graders, Storck would like to give students the option of doing an extra project or thesis on top of the general education classwork. Those juniors and seniors who completed this extra assignment would then be given the extra GPA bump, as if they had taken an honors-level class.

"I want to put together an honors program that kids can elect into. On top of doing the work for a general education class, they would also complete a special program or thesis paper over the course of the year to earn the extra weight," said Storck.

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Learning To Be Green

Green-way on the Highway features food and family fun.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE



PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO/THE GAZETTE

Mint plants grow in containers at the Arcadia Center.

Did you know that many Richmond Highway businesses are using and selling sustainable products every day?

Did you know that The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture are returning more than 100 acres of the Woodlawn property to sustainable farming and growing vegetable for use in local restaurants?

Did you also know that there are LEED certified homes and businesses on Richmond Highway — with more on the way?

Join friends and neighbors to learn about these facts and more at the first annual Green-way on the Highway — an event that will showcase not only the Arcadia Center, but also the local businesses that are making the commitment to create a sustainable, energy efficient and greener community.

Sponsored by the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC), Woodlawn Plantation and Arcadia, this new community festival will be held on Sunday, June 5 from noon to 4 p.m. at Woodlawn Plantation. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Star Catering and local restaurants will provide tastings of a variety of food. There will be activities for children, and giveaways and opportunities to win prizes.

Tours of Arcadia's farm will be offered at the Green-way on the Highway event.

Arcadia helps bridge the farm-to-consumer gap by distributing fresh, locally-produced foods to the Washington, D.C. area.

Founded by Neighborhood Restaurant Group co-owner Michael Babin, the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture is a nonprofit organization that he created in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"The Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture will bring into the present day

the long history of experimental farming at Woodlawn, from George Washington to the mid-nineteenth century Quaker owners. We're delighted to have the opportunity to work with the Center to further educational programs about food and agriculture at Woodlawn," said David J. Brown, executive vice president, National Trust.

Susan Hellman, deputy director at Woodlawn Plantation, said that Arcadia is leasing five acres from Woodlawn — an acre of which is currently cultivated. They are growing hops on clotheslines, brussel sprouts, radishes, herbs and other spring plants.

Maureen Moody is the farm director and manages not only the planting, but also the volunteer groups who provide their time to work on the farm. "The hops are a perennial plant that will provide a fun, living garden for children to explore," she said.

Pat Lutes, director of Arcadia, added that the blossoms on the hops are very fragrant and can also be used for potpourri.

Both Hellman and Laurie Ossman, director, Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, are excited about this new venture, and Hellman said, "It just seemed to work so well — to bring the site back to its true farming roots. It dovetails with the Historic trust mission."

Hellman said that in all, there are 126 acres, but not all of them are farmable. In keeping with the sustainable effort, they have tapped into the original well to water the garden. They are also using compost bins and have set up some bee hives.

Maintaining the garden has been a learn

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL, PAGE 32

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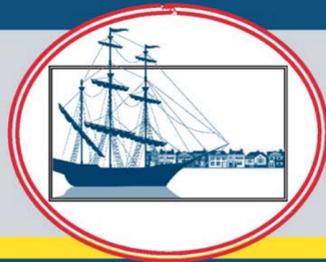
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9412 Ferry Landing Ct
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Custom colonial on gorgeous large lot in fabulous setting. Numerous special features: recently updated kitchen with light maple cabinets, granite and stainless. Family room off kitchen, home office, hdwd flrs, 4BR including master suite with private bath and sitting room. Spectacular second floor family room addition and oversize 2 car garage. Expansive outside decking overlooks custom pool and spacious grounds.

1907 Rampart Dr
\$655,000
Stunning Addition!
One of the most truly spectacular properties in Ft. Hunt area! Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Back of home was expanded resulting in breathtaking, glass walled, open kitchen/family room and main level master suite. Fabulous features include: updated gourmet kitchen with granite and custom cabinets. Expansive deck! Great location!

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3915 COURTLAND CIR Alexandria
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Inderjeet Jumanj 703.472.8804

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4408 Tarpon Ln
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Yacht Haven-Near River!
Spacious four level home has been meticulously maintained. Absolutely gorgeous half acre lot within walking distance of clubhouse and river in this fabulous waterfront community. Both home and grounds are in exceptional condition. Significant upgrades include luxurious baths, hardwood floors and much updating throughout. Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price.

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4503 Ferry Landing Rd
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4214 Dandridge Ter
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Stately Colonial-Great Price!
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9316 Allwood Dr
\$489,500
Super Value!
Only home currently on market in general Yacht Haven area for under \$500,000! Fabulous property with dramatic cathedral ceiling, hardwood floors, FP, replacement windows, finished Lower level & garage. Gorgeous setting on magnificent level 1/2 acre lot. Sub \$500k price provides unique entry level opportunity to this community.

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What The Future Holds

Students pursue college and careers after high school.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

Sarah Locke applied to Howard University, George Mason University and a few other colleges. In the end, however, she just couldn't see herself going anywhere besides The United States Military Academy, better known as West Point.

"I also looked into R.O.T.C or enlisting but this seemed like a better deal to me. I like the structure," said Locke.

West Point is not for the faint of heart. The academy is highly competitive, with just a 12.65 percent acceptance rate.

Out of the 1,300 people who start out each academy class, only 1,000 or so will make it through the four-year program, according to its website.

Just 10 days after her graduation from high school, Locke will have to report on June 27 for the beginning of Cadet Basic Training at West Point, also called "Beast Barracks."

Women tend to outnumber men in higher education, but West Point is an exception to that rule. Females usually make up just 15 percent of the cadets in each class, according to the academy's website.

Locke said she was inspired by her mother, an African American who was among the first 62 women to graduate from West Point in 1980.

Pat Walker Locke was already in the U.S. Army as an enlisted soldier when West Point opened its doors to women in the late 1970s. At the time, Pat Locke — who was from inner city Detroit — had never heard of West Point, but her battalion leader had encouraged her to apply for a slot at the school.

"There are more women there now than when we were there ... and people are trying to help you instead of keep you out," said Pat Locke, who is extremely pleased to see her own daughter attending the service academy.

"She was so excited. She was running around the house dancing when I got the letter," said Sarah Locke, who attends Mount Vernon High School.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA typically sends a large cohort of students to the military service academies each year.

Virginia's 11th congressional



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE / THE GAZETTE

Lake Braddock Secondary School senior Nicolas Lafasse and Mount Vernon High School senior Sarah Locke will start cadet basic training at the United States Military Academy, otherwise known as West Point, next month. Sarah is following in the footsteps of her mother, Pat Walker Locke, who was in the first West Point graduating class that included women.

district, which includes Fairfax and Prince William counties, had 49 students accepted to academies in 2011, the most of any congressional district in the country. Virginia's 10th congressional district, which includes northern and western Fairfax County, ranked second in the number of students attending military academies next year.

Several of the students attending one of the academies next year have a family connection to the military already.

"I was influenced by my dad, who is over in Iraq right now," said Jason Ko, a Robinson Secondary School senior who will be attending West Point next year.

In Fairfax County, the number of students attending service academies also appears to be on the rise. In 2005, a total of 40 students from Fairfax County Public Schools attended the five academies. By 2009, that number had increased to 54.

"That is just the kind of lifestyle that is appealing to me," said Lisa Marie Junta, a Springfield resident who is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Perhaps it shouldn't be surprising that Northern Virginia high school students interested in joining the military would pursue a career through a service academy that provides a college education.

A much larger percentage of Northern Virginia high school students attend four-year colleges in

general. Last year, more than 60 percent of high school graduates in Arlington and Fairfax counties enrolled in four-year college programs, compared to just 46 percent of Virginia high school graduates overall.

Graduates from the Fairfax County Public Schools overwhelmingly choose to go to school within the commonwealth, which rivals California as having the best public higher education in the country. In 2009, 75 percent of Fairfax high graduates attending college choose to enroll in the Virginia school, according to a school system report.

U.S. News and World Report regularly ranks the University of Virginia and College of William & Mary among the top 10 public undergraduate programs in the United States. The schools' stellar reputation has been double-edged sword however, creating an incredibly competitive admissions environment in which several high-achieving Northern Virginia students are vying for admission.

THIS YEAR, the University of Virginia saw record-breaking 24,005 applications for its freshman class. William and Mary had 12,820 applications, according to a New York Times database.

The commonwealth's most prestigious universities ended up with similar admission rates of 32.2 percent and 34.6 percent respectively. Private colleges such as Carnegie Mellon (30.4 percent),

2011 University of Virginia Acceptances By High School



The following data are based on information provided by the University of Virginia's Office of Institutional Assessment, Fairfax County Public Schools, Arlington County Public Schools and the City of Alexandria.

School	Number of Students Accepted To UVA.	Number of Seniors (April 2011)	Percentage of Seniors Accepted To UVA.
Thomas Jefferson High School	223	425	52.4%
H.B. Woodlawn High School	16	93	17.2%
McLean High School	50	406	12.3%
James Madison High School	53	454	11.6%
South Lakes High School	37	357	10.3%
Marshall High School	25	286	8.7%
Lake Braddock Secondary School	51	588	8.7%
Langley High School	41	487	8.4%
Oakton High School	44	532	8.2%
Robinson Secondary School	50	624	8.0%
Fairfax High School	39	496	7.8%
Centreville High School	39	507	7.7%
Washington-Lee High School	33	431	7.6%
West Potomac High School	32	422	7.5%
Yorktown High School	31	444	6.9%
West Springfield High School	32	525	6.1%
South County Secondary School	25	442	5.6%
Chantilly High School	32	587	5.4%
Westfield High School	35	669	5.2%
Herndon High School	21	450	4.6%
T.C. Williams High School	29	632	4.5%
Lee High School	18	399	4.5%
Edison High School	16	370	4.3%
Annandale High School	23	557	4.1%
Wakefield High School	12	291	4.1%
Hayfield High School	16	443	3.6%
Mount Vernon High School	6	346	1.7%
Falls Church High School	5	300	1.6%
Stuart High School	0	305	0%
Woodson High School	0*	449	0%*

* The University of Virginia sent data to The Connection Newspapers that indicated no students were accepted as freshman into its undergraduate program from Woodson High School this year. Members of the Woodson community have said this is not the case, pointing to at least six students who have reported they will attend the school in the fall.

Connecticut College (31.5 percent) and The George Washington University (32 percent) have comparable admission rates.

Several well-regarded public schools have higher admissions rates including Georgia Tech (48 percent), University of Texas - Austin (45.6 percent) and the University of Wisconsin - Madison (49.7 percent). A select few, like UCLA (25.28 percent) and the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (29.2 percent), have

lower admission rates than the most selective Virginia universities.

STILL, several Northern Virginia families complain about their children's ability to get admitted to the commonwealth's top tier schools. At three Fairfax high schools, fewer than 10 students were admitted to UVA. this year, according to data released by the

SEE PURSUING, PAGE 19

A Education Pursuing College

FROM PAGE 18

university.

Yet UVa.'s own data also shows that students applying from Northern Virginia localities were accepted at higher rate than average. The school acceptance rate for applications from Fairfax County (45 percent), Arlington County (43.1), City of Alexandria (40.1 percent) and the City of Fairfax (39.5 percent) was much more generous than the normal 32 percent.

In fact, it is often the next tier of Virginia public schools where students face more trouble getting accepted than average applicant.

For example in 2009, Fairfax County Public Schools reported that the school system's graduates were often accepted at a lower rate than the average applicant to George Mason University (59.5/63.3), James Madison University (50.2/59.3) and Virginia Tech (51.1/66.7).

One reason that the Northern Virginia community may perceive a shortage of slots at the commonwealth's most selective college, UVa., is because a large share of the students admitted come from one school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Nearly 18 percent of all the students admitted to UVa. from Fairfax and Arlington this year attend Thomas Jefferson. The university accepted 223 Jefferson students into its freshman class next year, which is more than half of the number of students in Jefferson's 425-person senior class. The next largest cohort of accepted students came from the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, where 75 seniors were admitted. Madison High School in Vienna was next, with 53 students.

A fair number of Jefferson graduates choose to attend UVa. Ninety-three students in the 2010 freshman class came from Jefferson, according to the university.

But some parents believe Jefferson students are also more likely to get into other prestigious schools that it is difficult for students from base high schools to access.

From 2005-2009, Fairfax schools sent approximately 100 of its students to Ivy League universities every year, less than one per

SEE PURSUING, PAGE 20



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* By readers of the Virginia Gazette 2007-2009



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FROM PAGE 19

cent of the number of seniors than normally apply to college.

SEVERAL STUDENTS also decided a four-year college is not the right choice for them, even in a highly-educated community like Northern Virginia.

Beth Clapsaddle is one of the 30 percent of Fairfax County students that has decided to pursue an associate's degree instead of a traditional four-year college. She has won two scholarships to the New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts, where most of her classmates will either have already attended college or worked professional in the performing arts world already.

"I know it sounds silly but I really want to be on Saturday Night Live. I want to become part of Second City in Chicago," said Clapsaddle, who has been active in the theater and music departments at West Springfield High School.

The New York City-based program will take two years, during which Clapsaddle will live on her own, since there are no student dorms connected to the conservatory.

The high school senior said her parents have been surprisingly supportive of her decision to forego college, though it may have helped that she landed a scholarship to a well-known prestigious arts program.

"I told them that I would really be excited to go away to college," she said.

THOUGH NORTHERN VIRGINIA has a higher-than-average rate of students attending four-year and two-year college programs, there are also a fair number of students for whom education stops after high school.

"I want all kids who can excel to the highest level to get to highest level but not all of our students are going to go to college," said School Board Member Brad Center (Lee). Center said one of his own son's is considering going into automobile repair, which would require some more school but not college-level coursework.

"I do want all kids to get some kind of education after k-12 but it doesn't need to be college," said Center.

Yet students who are Black or Hispanic in Northern Virginia are much more likely to graduate high school with "no plans" for further education — including trade school or apprenticeship programs.

In Fairfax County, 11 percent of Hispanic students and 7.3 percent of Black students who graduate from high school have "no plans" for pursuing higher education. Hispanic (26.5 percent) and Black (48.1 percent) students are also far less likely to be attending a four-year university or college.



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Civil War Life In Alexandria

May 21 – “Life in Civil War Alexandria: A 150th Commemorative Event”

Discover how Alexandria was transformed by the Civil War on the 150th anniversary weekend of Alexandria’s occupation by Federal troops! “Life in Civil War Alexandria: A 150th Commemorative Event,” a kick-off for Alexandria’s Civil War Commemoration, will be held on from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Old Town at Market Square, 301 King Street. Visit www.historicalexandria.org or call 703.746.4554.

May 21 – Gadsby’s Tavern Museum Civil War Tours

During the Civil War, this historic tavern and City Hotel remained open for business, attracting journalists and Union officers alike because of the site’s famous connection to George Washington. Now Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, debuts its new Civil War tour. From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703.746.4242. Free.

May 21 – New Civil War Tours of the Apothecary

On this afternoon, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax Street, is offering its new Civil War tours for free! From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., tour the Apothecary to learn why Mary Leadbeater signed the Oath of Allegiance to the Union, what popular remedies she sold to both civilians and soldiers! Visit www.apothecarymuseum.org or call 703.746.3852.

May 21 – “Spies and Scouts of the Civil War” Family Festival

When Union troops occupied Alexandria on May 24, 1861, the citizens were forced to choose sides. Loyalties were often divided and those who sympathized with the South had to live in an occupied city. Many people became spies for both sides of the war, and Carlyle House was a site known well to spies Frank Stringfellow and Sarah Emma Edmonds! Now families and children of all ages are invited to join in on the action at Carlyle House, 121 North Fairfax Street, with activities from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.carlylehouse.org or call 703.549.2997.

May 21 – Tours at R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum

Commemorate the start of the War Between the States and the occupation of Alexandria by touring the R.E. Lee Camp Hall Museum, 806 Prince Street, Alexandria’s only museum dedicated to the local companies of the 17th Virginia Infantry. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated. Email relcamp@hotmail.com or call 703.519.2123.

Eric Schaeffer Tells Signature’s Story

Book recounts 20 years of Arlington theatre.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

When Eric Schaeffer and Donna Liard (better known later as Donna Migliaccio) sat down over drinks one night in 1988, lamenting the lack of professional theater in Arlington, they set in motion a remarkable chain of events which Schaeffer now relates in a new book, “My Signature Story.” It was the birth of Signature Theatre, which now occupies not just a prominent building in Shirlington but a prominent place in the world of American theater with a national and even international reputation for quality professional productions.

As Schaeffer tells it, “after more than a few beers Donna and I began batting around about the idea of starting a professional theatre in Arlington” and “the idea still looked good the morning after (not always the case after a night of carousing)” so he contacted the Arlington County Cultural Affairs office and received a positive reception.

The story of how their proposal ended up 20 years later with Schaeffer standing on the stage of Radio City Music Hall accepting the Tony Award for the Outstanding Regional Theatre in America is a sprightly read and an object lesson both in the value of Arlington County’s support for the arts and the importance of dedication and planning to go beyond what a government program’s aid can provide.

Signature was one of Arlington’s first “Arts Incubator” projects. That program, which itself earned national recognition for its innovative approach to the mission of fostering the development of the arts in the county, provided space for Signature to perform in the former school library now known as Theatre Two in the Gunston Arts Center. With a rent that was based on the box office receipts, if a show was a success it paid more but if it wasn’t, the rent didn’t bankrupt the theater company.

Schaeffer tells how they raised the money to start the company and how they came up with the name Signature Theatre. He points out that this was before the now-also-famous Signature Theatre in New York chose the same name. He briefly laments the fact that they incorporated under the name, but didn’t trademark it.

There weren’t many things he laments, however. He tells the story of how they outgrew the space at Gunston and how the search for their own space ended when he stopped by a dilapidated old brick building



Eric Schaeffer

on South Four Mile Run Drive with broken windows, peeling paint and water on the floor where the rain came through the roof. With the help of Dick Gomersall, the space became what Signature fans long called “The Garage.”

Schaeffer also tells how they finally outgrew “The Garage,” and how their new theatre space in Shirlington came about. It is another interesting story of how Arlington County’s support for the Arts spurs developments, but how much determination, risk-taking and plain hard work it takes to turn opportunity into success.

With a mixture of pride and astonishment, he describes the new facility that now occupies the top stories above the county’s library in Shirlington. He tells of learning how best to use the new spaces through experience, revealing that small details had big consequences. For example, the audience seating risers were the same eight-inch rise as had been the case in “The Garage,” but the new chairs were an inch-and-a-half higher than the old, more uncomfortable chairs. The difference threw the sightlines off and people in the rear rows couldn’t see action set on the floor level of the theater during the opening show, “Into the Woods.” They no longer stage shows with action directly on the floor for this reason.

He also reveals the reason for the unsatisfying sound quality after they had spent over \$1 million on acoustics for the two

spaces in the new building. It seems that the acoustics were designed for both the smaller theater called the ARK and the larger one called the MAX to have hard-surfaced exposed steel for all the catwalks, spotlight stations and light rigging, but that the specifications had changed without anyone involved with acoustics noticing. Those surfaces were coated with spray-on sound proofing. Schaeffer goes on to say “We tried to solve the problem in many ways, but in the end we had to purchase an expensive new soundboard and microphones. I am hoping one day to win the lottery so I can just rip all the crappy soundproofing out of the MAX and return it to the clean, painted steel it was always intended to be.”

Schaeffer limits himself in this slender volume, written with the help of former Signature Theatre Board of Directors chair, Sarah Valente, to telling the story promised by the title “My Signature Story.” It isn’t an autobiography, although he quickly sketches his childhood in a few pages to set up his arrival in Arlington and his involvement with the community theatre group, The Arlington Players, where he first got involved in community theatre.

Schaeffer also only mentions in passing his own burgeoning success in the wider world of musical theater both as a director with his second show currently running on Broadway, a world premiere to his credit in London’s equivalent of Broadway, the West End, and national tours. Nor does he go into any detail on his role in the development of new musicals beyond that which takes place at Signature.

But a great deal does take place at Signature and this book fills in some details which will fascinate those who saw or heard about any of the company’s three productions of “Sweeney Todd,” their string of Sondheim musicals leading up to the hosting of the annual Stephen Sondheim Award, the glories of their productions of the work of Kander and Ebb, such landmarks as “110 In The Shade,” “Allegro,” “The Witches of Eastwick” and “Les Miserables.”

He gives an interesting account of the development of “Glory Days” from the first time its authors, James Gardiner and Nick Blaemire — students in Schaeffer’s theatre training program — asked to play one of their songs for him, through to the show’s opening night on Broadway which turned out to be its closing night as well.

The Signature story really deserves a longer, more detailed, comprehensive telling. For now, however, it is good to have this slender volume (Outskirts Press, \$15.95) that covers many of the highlights in highly readable form. At 121 pages of big type text, it is a quick but rewarding read.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway and writes about theater for a number of national magazines. He welcomes feedback from those he writes about and those he writes for. He can be reached at brad.hathaway@verizon.net.

ENTERTAINMENT

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THURSDAY, MAY 19

Preview Party, Antiques in Alexandria. 7 to 10 p.m. Be among first to see booths of show's 60 nationally recognized exhibitors. Benefit for The Lyceum, Alexandria Association and Twig. Tickets \$135. At Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria. Details: www.AntiquesinAlexandria.com

Politico Reporters. 6 to 8 p.m. Part of the Rooms with a View lecture series. Featuring Jonathan Allen, Senior Congressional Reporter, Politico, and Julie Mason, White House Reporter, Politico. At The Boeing Company's Conference Center, 1200 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Visit www.RosslynVA.org.

Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant. 1:30 p.m. Free. Three candidates are from Arlington including Ruthmarie Finley, Toby Greenwald and Patty Heenan and two from Alexandria, Lynn Kelley and Shirley Stroud. The winner will represent Virginia at the national pageant in Atlantic City. At the Lee Center, Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Call Annmarie Pittman, 703-549-7012 or e-mail annmariep@comcast.net. The website is www.msvirginiasenior.com.

Alexandria Tourism Marketing Summit. Noon to 3 p.m. Participants will learn how to tap into — and increase — Alexandria's \$616 million in visitor spending with insider tips from experts in tourism, e-marketing, news media, and sales. Lunch will be provided. Cost is \$25/\$12. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Pre-registration is required. Email BLEE@VisitAlexVA.com or call 703-746-3311.

MAY 19, 20, 21

"Les Miserables School Edition." Thomas Jefferson High School. Tickets are \$10 at door. Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m.; Friday, May 20 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 21 at 7 p.m.; At Thomas Jefferson High School, Braddock Road, Alexandria.

FRIDAY/MAY 20

Symphony Orchestra of Arlington Concert. 7:30 p.m. Features the works of Mozart and Tchaikovsky. The Washington Mens' Camerata, directed by Frank Albinder, with soloists Laura Wehmeyer - soprano, and Jackson Caesar- tenor are scheduled to participate. At George

Washington Masonic Temple, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

Mount Vernon Swing Band. Cost is \$4. Hollin Hall Senior Center will be hosting the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Call 703-765-4573.

Poetry Reading. 10 a.m. Mary McElveen, First Poet Laureate of the City of Alexandria, will return to Hollin Hall Senior Center to share her new poetry. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Fun-Raiser for Japan. 5 p.m. Admission is \$11/person. Featuring The Great Zucchini, Nen Daiko Traditional Japanese Drummer, Seichou Karate Dojo, Japanese Folk Dancing. At Burgundy Farm Country Day School, Alexandria. Visit www.8times.org or telephone Seichou Karate at 571-257-5401.

3rd Annual DRA Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Indoor yard sale, this fundraiser is free. Proceeds for new gallery lighting. To donate or volunteer, contact DRA.VicePresident@gmail.com. For details or directions: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Gone With The Wind lecture & brunch, Antiques in Alexandria, 11 a.m. Enjoy brunch and an illustrated lecture on costumes worn in classic movie by Costume and Textile Specialist A. Newbold Richardson. Benefits Alexandria charities. Tickets \$50. At Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria. Details: www.AntiquesinAlexandria.com

Floral Design Workshop, Antiques in Alexandria, 2 p.m. While enjoying a glass of champagne, learn from designer Laura Francis how to avoid formulaic compositions and expand boundaries of traditional bouquets. Benefits Alexandria charities. Tickets \$35. Free Parking. At Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria. Details: www.AntiquesinAlexandria.com

Spring Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Nativity Lutheran Church parking lot, 1300 Collingwood Road, Alexandria.

Awards Ceremony. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. The Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center will host an awards ceremony and reception honoring Alexandria High School students and their artist mentors who have participated in the Mentorship Program. This year's program features students from West Potomac and T.C. Williams High Schools and culminates in an exhibit of work running through May 21 on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory. Email the Friends at friends.tfac@yahoo.com.



MAY 20 TO 22

15th Antiques in Alexandria. 60 nationally recognized exhibitors featuring antique furniture, silver, porcelain, rugs, paintings, prints, jewelry, clocks, garden objects, and more. Benefit for Lyceum, Alexandria Assoc., and Twig. Tickets \$15. Free Parking, catalog & loan exhibit, Alexandria 1861 – Winds of Change. At Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd. Details: www.AntiquesinAlexandria.com

ALIVE House Sidewalk Sale. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sidewalk sale to benefit ALIVE! House. At South Payne Street between Commerce and Prince Streets. Rain Date Sunday, May 22. Donations welcomed. Bring to Ice House, 200 Commerce St., Saturday, May 14 from 9-5 p.m., Sunday, May 15 from 1-5 p.m. Call 703-683-5138 for other times and for pick up.

Flea Market. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bake sale, jewelry, clothing, plants, white elephant and more. At the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St., Alexandria. Call 703-914-0223.

Poetry and Music of the Civil War. 1 p.m. Free. Poet Peter Lattu will read Civil War poems and poet John Finerty will read original poems about Civil War events. A trio of flutists will also perform period music. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035.

Woman's BBQ Dinner. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bake sale, jewelry, clothing, plants, white elephant and more. Sponsored by the Salvation Army Alexandria Citadel Corps, 1804 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Anyone showing a Military ID at the door will receive a 10 percent discount in honor of Armed Forces Day. Call 703-836-2427 for tickets.

Civil War Life. 2 to 5 p.m. Free. Discover how Alexandria was transformed by the Civil War on the 150th anniversary weekend of Alexandria's occupation by Federal troops. This free event will also offer information tables on Civil War historic sites, museums, events and organizations in the area. Visit www.historicalexandria.org or call 703-746-4554. At Old Town Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria.

Community Day. UCM Creekside Village hosts its annual Community Day. Highlights for the day will include lunch donated by JLV Partners, jump rope competitions, face painting, games, musical performances and informational tables from the UCM Workforce Development Center, Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, Mount Vernon Police Department, West Potomac High School and Fort Hunt Elementary School PTA.

Cocker Spaniel Adoption Show. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come meet cockers of all ages available for adoption. Dogs are spayed or neutered. At Chateau Animaux, 101 S. St. Asaph St., Alexandria. Call 703-533-2373 or visit www.cockerspanielrescue.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

Faces of Hope Walk. Noon to 4 p.m. Second annual Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation Pediatric Cancer Walk in memory of Mattie, son of Peter Brown and Vicki Sardi-Brown. Cost is \$25/adults; \$15/children. At St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper School campus, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Register in person at the event or online in advance at www.mattiemiracle.com/cancerwalk.html. All proceeds benefit the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation.

Animal Foster Fair. 3 to 5 p.m. Are you an animal lover who wants to help special needs animals grow or heal before they can go up for adoption at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria/Vola

Lawson Animal Shelter? Learn about this growing Foster Program and how you can be a part of it! At the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria/Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Contact Diann Hohenthaner at 703-746-5583.

Jazz Concert. 6 to 9:30 p.m. The Francis C. Hammond, George Washington, Ninth Grade, and T.C. Williams Jazz Ensembles will perform. At The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Contact the Carlyle Club 703-548-5953.

Colin Casey 3K Run. Registration 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. At St. Mary's Catholic School. Pre-registration: \$15/child, \$25/adult, \$90/family; Registration: \$15/child, \$30/adult, \$90/family. Award's ceremony 10 a.m. At 400 Green Street, Alexandria.

A Very Special Tea, Antiques in Alexandria. 2 p.m. Dress up in your fancy clothes and come to a tea party where a Civil War era hostess teaches proper tea preparation and deportment to ladies of all ages. Tickets \$25. Benefits Alexandria charities. Tickets \$25. At Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria. Details: www.AntiquesinAlexandria.com

Spring Fling. 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic School's 21st annual Spring Fling. With rides, games, shopping, food, children's raffle and more. At 400 Green Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1646.

Pruning Trees and Shrubs. 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Arlington Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension, with support from Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. At 2416 Ridge Road Drive, Alexandria, one mile south of Fairlington Community Center; parking on street. To register, call 703-228-6414.

Family Walk for Pediatric Cancer. 12 - 4 p.m. Speakers and family activities such as arts and crafts, cooking demonstrations, magic show, 26 ft. rock climbing wall, games, raffles, and a walk around the track to show support. To benefit Mattie Miracle Foundation and fund a ChildLife Specialist position at Georgetown University Hospital. Admission is \$25 Adults/\$15 children (under 3 free). T-shirts and drawstring bags included. At St. Stephen's upper campus, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Visit www.mattiemiracle.com

"Say It With Music." 7 p.m. Wakefield Chorale will present its Spring Concert. The program will have a wide variety of show tunes, patriotic, classical and spiritual numbers. At Annandale High School, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale. Call 703-451-7917.

Schlesinger Concerts. 3 p.m. Free. Presented by the U.S. Army Orchestra. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, NVCC, Alexandria campus. Call 703-696-3399 or visit www.usarmyband.com.

SUNDAYS, MAY 22, 29

Old Town Waterfront Fun Days. 1 to 4 p.m. Presented by the Alexandria Waterfront Committee, Torpedo Factory Artists, Art League, Alexandria Archaeology, and the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. At the Alexandria City Marina on the waterfront. Contact Charlotte Hall at 703-684-0580.

TUESDAY/MAY 24

Civil War Roundtable Discussion. 6 to 9 p.m. Led by Michael Lee Pope, the topics will range from military strategy and political movements to family life and regional trends. At Kimpton's Monaco Alexandria, 480 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-6080.

Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited. 12:30 p.m. Free. Baltimore Album-style applique teacher Mimi Dietrich, of Catonsville, Md., will visit Mount Vernon Quilters Unlimited to present a guild lecture entitled "A Quarter Century of Quilting." Meets at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Contact: MQUPresident@gmail.com

Civil War Ceremony. 5 p.m. The R.E. Lee Camp #726, sons of Confederate Veterans will hold a Civil War Sesquicentennial Memorial Ceremony. Noted historian Don Hakenson will speak. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. At 6 p.m., a Service of Remembrance will be observed at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Following the service, a dinner will be held at the United Daughters of the Confederacy R.E. Lee Camp Hall, 806 Prince St. Cost to attend the dinner is \$25 per person. Please RSVP to Mr. J.J. Smith at 703 299-1725. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Payment must be received by May 21st. For additional information, visit www.leecamp.org.



From left: Hayden Arp, Emmy Freedman, Keira Moran, Christopher Porter and Cameron Lyons.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

T.C. Williams' Chamber Ensemble. 4 p.m. Free. Five chamber music ensembles, each composed entirely of T.C. Williams High School students, will perform a concert of chamber music at the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-505-0700.

FINE ARTS

MAY 21 TO JUNE 26

In the Flesh 3. In the Flesh 3 examines contemporary figurative art, showcasing the work of 21 artists while exploring the deep-seeded relationship between humanity and art. Reception is June 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Drawing Inspiration from the Figure. 7 p.m. This show, featuring artwork inspired by the human form, runs through June 26 at the Del Ray Artisans gallery. Opening reception is Friday, June 3 from 7 to 10 p.m. Details and directions: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

MAY 20 TO JUNE 20

Artist Pam Rogers. "The Germination Project: Emerge." Mixed media including handmade natural pigments. Opening reception is Saturday, June 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. At the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, NVCC Alexandria campus.

NOW THROUGH MAY 29

Laura A. Clerici and Dennis Crayon. New Members Show. Laura Clerici is a Byzantine iconographer. Dennis Crayon uses color and position to convey Modernist composition with a classical painting technique. Meet the Artist's reception is Saturday, May 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 6

Baa-merica! Icons Revisited. Leslie Blackmon's Solo Exhibit of Fiber Sculpture. She has created intricate crochet sculptures of sheep posing as American popular culture icons. A Meet-the-Artist's reception is Thursday, May 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. At The Art League, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org

Call for Instructors for Art Camp 2011 (7/25-7/29).

Projects should combine educational elements with hands-on and engaging opportunities for creativity and relate to a current or historic craft founded in cultural tradition. Ages 8-14. www.theDelRayArtisans.org.

NOW THROUGH MAY 29

Seen and Unseen/Joanna Knox. Since 2003, Knox has explored the connections between people and spaces through her large format color photographs of abandoned spaces. At the Athenaemum Gallery, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or nvfaa.org

NOW THROUGH MAY 30

Kiln Club Show. Scope Gallery potters at the Torpedo

LOCAL THEATER

MAY 18 TO JUNE 5

"Drumming with Dishes." Presented by Arts on the Horizon, dedicated to young children. At Landmark Mall in Alexandria. Performances are May 18, 19, 24, 25, June 1 at 10:30 a.m.; May 21 and June 4 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; May 28 at 10 a.m.; and May 22 and June 5 at 11:30 a.m. All tickets are \$8 (with a Family Four pack for \$25) and can be purchased online at <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org/tickets.htm> or at the door. Visit <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org>.

MAY 20-22

"Mindgame." Port City Playhouse production. Show runs Friday and Saturday, May 20-21-22. Evening shows at 8 p.m.; matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18/\$16/\$14. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 12

"Side by Side by Sondheim." Features songs from 1957 to 1976) from some of Broadway's most memorable musicals including "West Side Story," "Anyone Can Whistle," "Follies," "A Funny Thing Happened..." "A Little Night Music," "Company," and "Pacific Overtures." At Signature Theatre. Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$55 - \$81. Call 703- 573-SEAT or www.signature-theatre.org.

NOW THROUGH MAY 29

"The Real Inspector Hound." Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. At MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. in Alexandria, in North Old Town. Tickets may be ordered by calling 1-800-494-8497 or online at boxofficetickets.com. For group sales, call the theatre at 703-548-9044 or www.metrostage.org.



MAY 31 TO JUNE 26

Birds & Beasts. Creature-centered clay creations. At the Torpedo Factory's Scope Gallery; hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. At 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

Factory Art Center have created one-of-a-kind pieces to offer this Spring season. At the Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Ground Floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call the Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm and www.kilnclubwdc.com

NOW THROUGH JUNE 5

Two Visitors Exhibit. Photography by Laurie Sand and Colleen Spencer Henderson. At Multiple Exposures Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street, Studio 312, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2205.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 18

Four Seasons: A Photography Exhibition. Opening reception is Saturday, May 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. Exhibition by photographers Fred Eberhart and Joseph Romeo at Broadway Gallery, 5641B General Washington Drive, Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 26

Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

NOW THROUGH JULY 31

Exhibition of Commemorative Wares. Features ceramic wares that reflect the Alexandria community's keen interest in current and historic events. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$2 admission. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

Alexandria Film Fest Is Seeking Entries

The fifth annual Alexandria Film Festival is soliciting entries from U.S. and international filmmakers. At least three cash prizes will be awarded to top films at the Festival: Best of Show (\$500), Jury Prize (\$300) and Audience Award (\$200). All film genres are accepted in all categories including narrative, documentary, short, animated and experimental. Deadlines for entries are: Early Bird - May 31, 2011; Regular - June 30, 2011; Late - July 15, 2011. Regular fees are \$35 for feature-length films and \$25 for shorts. Discounts are available for early entries.

The Alexandria Film Festival will again partner with Withoutabox, a subsidiary of www.IMDB.com, to accept film submissions. To submit films through Withoutabox and receive an entry fee discount, visit www.withoutabox.com/login/7816. Complete guidelines are posted on Withoutabox and on the film festival web site at www.AlexandriaFilm.org.

Call 703-746-5588 or aca@alexandriava.gov.

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United Community Ministries Food Pantry

accepts donations of food Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & the first Sunday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306. People dropping off donations should enter through the gates on the right side of the building, drive around to the back of the building and ring the bell at the green door.

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FAITH

15 Years of Raising Hope

BY THE REV. KEARY KINCANNON
RISING HOPE
UNITED METHODIST MISSION CHURCH

In 1995, after nearly two decades of working with Sojourners and the inner-city poor of Washington D.C., Bishop Thomas Stockton appointed me to explore starting a church among the poor and marginalized living along the Route 1 corridor south of Alexandria. In June of 1996 Dr. F. Douglas Dillard, the Alexandria District Superintendent, and I chartered a new congregation in the community room of the West Ford public housing project. We had 11 members and named this congregation Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church.

Our mission has always been to bring the power of Christ and the support of the church to the least, the lost, the lonely, and the left out of our community. As a result we have drawn our membership from the many homeless, formerly homeless, disabled, and working poor members of our community as well as a number of middle-class families called to serve God among the least of these.

Today our small congregation has grown, not so much in membership, but in impact. With 100 active members, two-thirds of whom have been homeless, we serve the needs of 8,000 impoverished people in our community annually with our food pantry, soup kitchen, clothing closet, hypothermia shelter, recovery programs, job programs, and emergency assistance.

We may do a number of things that look like a social service agency but the core of our life at Rising Hope is our worship of the God made known in Jesus Christ. And it is His power that drives all our outreach into the community. We access that power regularly through disciplined times of worship, prayer, and Bible study. We worship together five times a week. Sunday morning is our central celebration but we also come together in a shorter celebration at noon every Tuesday through Friday.

I have always taken Jesus' words to reach out to the least among us very seriously. But Jesus is not content that we should simply feed the hungry. He was transforming lives by welcoming traitorous tax collectors, revolutionary zealots, prostitutes, and sin-



The Rev. Keary Kincannon

PHOTOS BY ED SIMMONS

ners into his inner circle. When criticized for eating with them he replied, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' [a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:12-12). If Jesus invited the most disreputable members of society to become his disciples can we do any less? The Gospel is both challenging and life changing.



Aceline Bapthleus, Dwayne Sands and Deborah Johnson are Rising Hope volunteers/members who come from the community to help others. Bapthleus is a Haitian immigrant who works as a domestic; she volunteers many hours in the food pantry and clothing closet. Johnson is a single mom with a teenage daughter still at home; she is a certified food handler unemployed in this recession; she volunteers as our cook about 30 hours a week. Sands first came to the hypothermia shelter the church operates in partnership with Ventures in Community; since then he has found housing and he volunteers nearly full time at Rising Hope assisting all who come into the building.

ners into his inner circle. When criticized for eating with them he replied, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

As I reflect on Rising Hope's 15 years, one thing we got right was insisting that we empower the poor and not simply serve them. Our food pantry depends on the many volunteers from area churches and their generous donations of food.

With their support we serve over 300 families every week. Yet equally important is the empowerment of dozens of people volunteering from the community in need. We put them to work stacking the shelves, making deliveries, and welcoming the patrons who come desperate for assistance with their food budgets. By offering everyone an opportunity to volunteer we are giving dignity to even the most destitute of individuals. Rising Hope is not about a "free hand-out." Neither are we about the wealthy sharing their surplus with poor souls who have so little.

Rising Hope has a much greater goal in mind. We want to manifest the Kingdom of God where rich and poor, black and white, privileged and disadvantaged come together to be empowered to live out our highest potential and humbled to serve even the most underserving. Love demands nothing less. That is what God did for us in Jesus Christ and that is what God is calling us to do.

The work of Rising Hope will be recog-



THE CHURCH OF NO LOST CAUSES

A little Methodist church has a big heart for the left out and the lonely in the shadow of the nation's capital.

A FEW YEARS ago a woman was getting off the bus on Route 1 in northern Virginia, just across the river from Washington, D.C. She remembers feeling a little lost. The bus driver noticed and asked what she was looking for. She thought for a moment, then answered, "God." The driver pointed across a parking lot and said, "God's right over there." She looked at the nearly empty office park and saw a large sign: "Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church."

Methodist it was, but it wasn't much of a church by traditional standards. It was a former insurance office, and despite a few dozen folding chairs and a piano, it still looked like a place you'd go sheepishly to explain a car accident you hoped was covered. But this was a marked improvement over the station wagon that pastor and founder Rev. Keary Kincannon had used only a few years previously to reach out to the poor and suffering in the unshiniest of places: Fairfax County, one of the wealthiest areas in the United States.

With a median household income of \$106,000, Fairfax County in northern Virginia might not be the first choice for an idealistic Methodist seminarian who wanted to serve the poor. But having grown up in the region, Kincannon knew there was an invisible underside to the prosperity. He had long felt a calling to what he describes as transformational ministry, in churches for the lost, the lonely, and the least of these. That storefront church was part of a journey that has culminated in an established and well-recognized ministry. After years of organizing and fund raising, Rising

Sojourners Magazine, a social justice religious magazine with national and international distribution, has published a four-page article on Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church.

nized from June 2011 to June 2012 with a year of "15th Anniversary Celebrations" designed to lift up and support our work.

❖ The first will be a simple service of gratitude on Sunday evening June 26, 7 p.m. at Rising Hope.

❖ On Friday Sept. 30, the "Friends of Rising Hope" are sponsoring a fundraising dinner, dance and auction at the Mount Vernon Country Club, Mount Vernon.

❖ Nationally acclaimed Christian comedian Scott Davis will present two benefit concerts for Rising Hope at Springfield UMC on Sunday evening Oct. 23.

❖ At a date and time to be arranged in early 2012, Jeff Majors (Gospel and jazz musician, recording artist, radio and TV personality) will host a "HopeFest" with great musicians and preaching to culminate our year of celebration. Please join us for one or more of these celebrations as we give thanks to God for God's presence in our work.

For more information go to www.risinghopeumc.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

ONGOING

The Mount Vernon Farmers Market will be held on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays for the 2011 market season. The market is in the parking lot of the Sherwood Library located at 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane in Alexandria. The hours are 8 a.m. until noon. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/FarmersMarkets/ or call 703-642-0128.

UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store is in need of donations of furniture. UCM will pick up furniture, as well as other larger donations, or they can be dropped off at the back of the store Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To arrange for pick-ups, call 703-768-7106, ext. 320. Located at the Mt. Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center at 7838

To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

Richmond Highway, Alexandria.
Two new Girl Scout troops are meeting at the Creekside Village community center after school on Monday afternoons — Troop 716 and Troop 922. The Brownie and Junior troops meet together on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The troop members are working on the "Write All About It" badge and plan to earn the "Looking My Best" badge as well as the "Theater" badge. The Girl Scouts also hope to go camping this spring. Contact troop leader Kathy Lehner at kathy.lehner@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 24

Alexandria on Wheels. 8 to 9:30 a.m. Customer Service, Marketing Analysis, Creating Demand

and the Personal Touch. Find out how applying these skills can increase the sales not only of cars, but also of your company's goods and services. At Alexandria BMW Showroom, 499 South Pickett Street, Alexandria. Speaker is Greg Pugh, GMW general manager. Reservations: brahmopticians@aol.com or 703-772-6716.

TUESDAY/MAY 31

StagePlay celebrates 10 years of summer fun with an assortment of drama camps for 3-14 year olds. Camps will be held at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, and at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, beginning May 31. For full details, email bardsplay@aol.com, tel 703-963-9430, www.stageplay.TV.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Family Caregivers Forum. 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Includes a panel discussion by experts in the field of adult caregiving as well as Fairfax County information and private exhibitors. At Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Fairfax Elderhostel Alumni Assoc. Meeting. 2 to 4 p.m. Ambassador David Newton will speak on "Yemen: The Middle East's Latest Hotspot." At George Mason Public Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

to emphasize programs related to jobs and the economy.

But the almost exclusive emphasis on later grades misses a huge opportunity. Young children, with their inquisitive minds and questions about the world around them are wired to learn the basics of science and math. Younger grades are where the foundation for future academic success is set. Waiting until the end is a huge missed opportunity.

The best time to start teaching science is in the earliest years, which is why places like the Center for Early Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at the University of Northern Iowa are hosting conferences on examining ways to build the foundations of science in earlier grades. And its why Virginia's recently announced Science and Math Partnership Grants include a number of projects focused on elementary school. In pre-school and elementary school, we can teach kids to ask questions, evaluate their surroundings, consider, ask "what if" and explore. Inquisitiveness is the foundation of science. These skills will bring the innovation and progress our Commonwealth needs to prosper.

The success of schools like Hollin Meadows will dictate the economic progress of our state. The students that come out of them are investments in the future job growth and innovation of Virginia. It will be the creative work of engineers, mathematicians and scientists who find the solutions to our energy challenges, who create new ways to protect our air and water and who develop the machines and products that will keep us moving forward. We need to help Hollin Meadows succeed and to make it possible for others emulate them. That will put us on the right path for long term success for our economy and our planet.

Rob Krupicka
Alexandria

Rob Krupicka is a member of the Virginia Board of Education and the Alexandria City Council

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Gazette
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com



Commemorative Brick

Collingwood Executive Director Paul Frank (left) presents commemorative brick to President Winn Williams in recognition of Kentuckian Society support of Collingwood's community programs

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

Brian Fitzsimmons, a senior at Mount Vernon High School, has been awarded the Virginia State Golf Association Scholarship. He will be attending the University of Virginia in the Fall under the "Echols Scholar Program."

Ellen Reynolds, daughter of Carol Reynolds of Alexandria, and a 2010 graduate of Mt. Vernon High School, received the Achievement in Photography award on April 15, 2011 at Lynchburg College's Academic Awards Banquet. Ellen is a freshman art major at Lynchburg College.

Angela Dawn Anderson, a resident of Alexandria, has earned an Associate in Applied Science, administrative/Management Studies from Excelsior College.

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5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)

Weekdays

(Mass or Communion
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Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am
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Wolverines Win District Tournament Play-In Game

Jarrell pitches six strong innings; Murray homers in win over Lancers.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE GAZETTE

In a Patriot District baseball tournament play-in game, West Potomac, the No. 5-seed, defeated No. 8 Lee High, 9-1, in a postseason game played at West Potomac on Monday night, May 16.

The win advanced the Wolverines (12-9) to a district quarterfinals round meeting at No. 4 West Springfield High two days later on Wednesday, May 18. Lee, meanwhile, saw its season end with the loss to West Potomac.

Earning the pitching win for West Potomac in the victory over the Lancers was left-handed junior starter Dan Jarrell, who allowed just one run (unearned) and two hits while striking out 12 in six innings of work. Jarrell's season record improved to 3-3 with a 2.30 ERA with the strong outing.

Jarrell threw 91 pitches on the night; 71

of those pitches were strikes.

"Dan's pitched some fine games," said West Potomac coach Jim Sullivan. "Lee can play some good baseball. He was getting everything over for strikes — his fastball, changeup and curve ball. He's certainly not overpowering but he was really on."

Andrew White, a junior, pitched the seventh inning, striking out three. So for the ball game, West Potomac pitching accounted for 15 strikeouts — five innings worth of outs.

Sullivan said it was Jarrell's best outing since April 15 when the southpaw went six strong innings in a hard luck 3-2 loss at district opponent South County, the top-ranked team in the Northern Region.

Uncharacteristically, West Potomac's defense made three errors in Monday's game against Lee. Sullivan said overall defense has been a strength for the Wolverines, who had not committed any errors over the final few games of the regular season.

The offensive highlight for West Potomac

in the win over Lee was a fourth inning home run by left-handed hitting sophomore Jayme Murray, who pulled a towering shot down the right field line and well over the fence. It was the fifth home run of the season for Murray, who is batting .390 with 30 RBIs.

"He hits them a long way," said Sullivan. "It was a moon shot."

Also having a good game at the plate was junior Nick Cordone, who had two hits, including a double off the fence.

WEST POTOMAC'S top position player this spring has been junior shortstop/third baseman Sean Trenchard, who recently earned First Team All-Patriot District honors for the Wolverines. For the season, Trenchard, a right-handed hitter who bats third in the line-up, is batting .450 with four homers and 25 RBIs.

"He just hits the ball extremely hard and he's extremely fast," said Sullivan, who said Trenchard led the district in stolen bases (19 in 21 tries).

Murray, a southpaw pitcher like teammate Jarrell, earned Second Team All-District honors at the utility position. On the pitching mound this season, Murray is 4-2 with

a 3.00 ERA.

Five Wolverines earned All-District Honorable Mention accolades - junior catcher Matt Hrin, junior infielder Josh Belanger, DH Cordone, junior outfielder Jack King, and Jarrell (pitcher).

Sullivan, in his sixth season as the West Potomac head coach, was hoping to see the Wolverines qualify for the 16-team Northern Region playoffs for the first time under his leadership. Usually, West Potomac has finished in fifth place in the regular season standings during Sullivan's time as head coach. That was the case this season. To make regionals this season, West Potomac had to defeat West Springfield in Wednesday's quarterfinals playoff meeting (after this edition's deadline).

"We've had a good season, although not as good as we'd hoped," said Sullivan, who said his team's expectations going into the season were to finish among the top four teams in the district.

The key to West Potomac's winning season has been its pitching.

"Our pitching has really come along with Dan and Jayme, both left-handers," said Sullivan. "We can match up with anyone on any night."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mount Vernon Crew Wins Silver

The Mount Vernon High School crew team participated in the Virginia State Rowing Championship regatta Saturday, May 14, where the women's lightweight 4 placed second, earning a silver medal. They now rank second in Virginia and have earned the opportunity to compete at the Scholastic Rowing Association National Regatta to be held May 27 and 28 in Cooper River, N.J.

National District Lacrosse Honors

Members of the Mount Vernon boys and girls lacrosse teams received all-National District honors. For the boys, junior midfielder Isaac Ortiz and senior goalkeeper PJ Virostek earned first-team honors, and junior attackman Ian McKellips and senior defenseman Asante Mickle earned second-team honors.

For the girls, sophomore midfielder Gabrielle Ocker and junior defender Abby Kitchen earned first-team honors and junior midfielder Allie Schray earned second-team honors.

Gunston Soccer Club

Gunston Soccer Club, which provides recreation and travel soccer opportunities for boys and girls in the Fort Hunt, Mount Vernon, Lorton, Alexandria, and other areas of Fairfax County, will be holding tryouts for its travel soccer teams, which play in the National Capital Soccer League, Washington Area Girls Soccer League, and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Mount Vernon crew team's lightweight 4, from left: Stephanie Restifo, Maddie Ryan, Raven Woody, Helen Sudhoff (coxswain), and Heiomy Beltran.

Old Dominion Soccer League. Boys and girls, ages 8-18, who are interested in playing soccer at a higher level and improving their skills and knowledge of the game should attend their age-appropriate tryout session. Tryout sessions begin on May 23 and run through June 10. All players should bring a soccer ball and water bottle and wear shin guards. More information can be found at www.gunstonsoccer.com.

WP Air Raid Football Camp

The Wolverine Booster Club is sponsor-

ing the Air Raid Football Youth League Camp, structured toward grades 4-8 and ages 10-14. Camp sessions are July 11-15 and July 18-22. Each day runs from 6-8:30 p.m. on the West Potomac High School practice fields.

Cost is \$75. Make checks payable to the Wolverine Athletic Booster Club or WBAC.

WP Boys Basketball Summer Camps

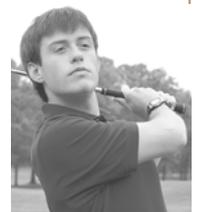
West Potomac will host three weeks of

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 28

MVHS Golfer Wins Scholarship

The Virginia State Golf Association has awarded Mount Vernon senior Brian Fitzsimmons a \$3,500 college scholarship in recognition of his golf, academic and community achievements. He will enroll at the University of Virginia this fall.

Fitzsimmons played on the Mount Vernon golf team all four years and easily recalls his career highlight.



Fitzsimmons

"I qualified as an individual for regionals as a sophomore," he said in a recent interview. "That was great."

He has also excelled in the classroom, winning honors as the most outstanding student in French, chemistry, physics, and astronomy. He is in the National Honor Society, serves as the senior class president, and earned the William & Mary Leadership Award in 2010. Brian is a three-time winner of the Virginia High School League Academic Excellence Award.

Despite schoolwork and golf, Brian finds time to play the piano an hour a day — "I love it" — and play ultimate Frisbee.

Fitzsimmons's brother Patrick won a similar scholarship three years ago while playing golf at Mount Vernon High School.

— MICHAEL K. BOHN

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SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 26

basketball camps in July for ages 7-16. Week one is the co-ed camp from July 5-8. Cost is \$95. Weeks two (July 11-15) and three July 25-29) are boys camps. Cost is \$120. Contact West Potomac head coach David Houston at djhouston@fcp.edu for more information.

American Legion Baseball Players Wanted

The Montgomery College Rockville baseball team is looking for American Legion or showcase-quality players for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 seasons. The Rockville Express of the Cal Ripken League plays their home games at MC Rockville. Contact Coach Rick Price at 240-447-6948 for more information.

Aces Looking for Host Families

The Alexandria Aces Collegiate Summer Baseball Club of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League is looking for host families for its upcoming 2011 season. Aces players arrive in Alexandria on Memorial Day Weekend. All players need is a place to sleep and access to a washer and dryer, the Aces take care of everything else. To volunteer as a host family, contact Aces Host Family Coordinators, David Cheney (Aces Club Boosters - Baseball Chairman) or Lisa Marie Cheney (Aces Club Boosters - Board Vice Pres.) by email at cheneydave@gmail.com or by phone at 703-370-2882.

Sports Updates on Twitter

Follow sports editor Jon Roetman on Twitter at @jonroetman for sports updates around Northern Virginia and Montgomery County, Md.



PHOTO BY LORI HELTZEL

Offering a Little Advice

The Fort Belvoir Little League Pirates helped the Mount Vernon varsity baseball team in its district game against Wakefield on May 2. The FBLL players took the field with their respective varsity players. With the exceptional fan base and the sound advice the FBLL players offered, Mount Vernon snapped its losing streak and beat Wakefield, 11-1.

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY
McQUADE
WILLMA STEVENSON

Willma Stevenson McQuade, 89, formerly of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on April 22, 2011. Billie was a graduate of Trenton State Teachers College and spent many years pursuing her joy of teaching children in the public schools of New Jersey and Virginia. She was a member of Aldersgate Methodist Church where she taught preschool and volunteered in the church office for 18 years. Upon moving to Roanoke in 2006, she filled her days with working in the library, gardening, going on outings with her grandchildren Trent and Macy McQuade and teaching her 6 year old "adopted" granddaughter, Annie Divinye, to sew her own dresses. Billie was a selfless giver of her time and her support to many organizations and churches. Those who had the privilege to know her will remember her for the quiet dignity and grace that she brought to her relationships with family and friends.

Billie is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Art Strickland of Roanoke; her son and daughter-in-law Doug and Susan McQuade of Roanoke, and five grandchildren Nicole Strickland of Baltimore, Maryland, Danielle Strickland of Guadalajara, Mexico, Ryan Strickland of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Trent and Macy McQuade of Roanoke. She is also survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Joe and Amy Stevenson of Gulfbreeze, Florida and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Thomas A. McQuade, her parents, Horace and Elizabeth Stevenson, her sister and brother - in-law Julia and Richard (Dick) Washburn, and her brother and sister-in-law Horace (Bud) and Connie Stevenson.

A memorial service will be held at 1 pm on May 27 graveside at Arlington Cemetery, where she will be interred beside her husband, Tom, a World War II POW. A reception will follow at the Fort Meyers Officers Club. Memorials may be made to AHALA Children's Rights Foundation, PO 2866, Roanoke 24001.

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ALEXANDRIA SOUTH **\$519,900**
INVITING STRATFORD LANDING HOME
4 Bedroom 3 Bath Split Foyer on oversized lot. Featuring attractive kitchen with granite countertops, updated cabinets, new ceramic flooring, & more. Large master bedroom w/ wood flooring, walk-in closet, 2nd closet & private bath. French doors open to maintenance-free deck at main level. Fully finished lower level opens to screened porch. Hot tub & above-ground pool are ready for your summer fun.
Directions: From Alexandria, South on GW PKY 4 mi. Right on Collingwood Rd. Cross Ft Hunt Rd to stop sign. Left on Riverside Rd past SL Elementary School to 8532 on right.

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ALEXANDRIA **\$550,000**
PROFESSIONALLY DESIGNED INTERIOR
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ALEXANDRIA SOUTH **\$499,900**
POPULAR HOLLIN HALL
Three level front-to-back split features cathedral ceiling living room with cheery streaming natural light and cheery fireplace. Three bedrooms on upper level, family room & fireplace on lower level. Ideally located at edge of Paul Springs Park.

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NEW PRICE

ALEXANDRIA SOUTH **\$419,000**
PRISTINE CAPE
Beautifully updated cape cod on premium 1/3 acre lot close to everything. Mid-light toned hardwoods. Ceramic flooring in kitchen, granite countertops. Master bedroom with skylights. Updated bath with jetted tub. 3 Bedrooms / 2 Baths. **Directions: From Alex, south Rt 1. Left Beacon Hill, Right Quander, Right Duke to 6801.**

CALL MIKE DOWNIE 703-360-7400 or 703-360-3189



KINGSTOWNE **\$429,900**
WALK TO SHOPPING & MOVIES
Large 3 level townhome, ceramic tiled entry foyer, hardwoods thru main rooms including front kitchen with breakfast are and stainless appliances, granite counters. Skylights in upper hall and master bath. Finished lower level with fireplace & full bath. 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 baths.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAEFT/THE GAZETTE

Rememberings

The mother and widow of Second Lieutenant Frank Stecco, who died during a water rescue training exercise in the waters of Pohick Bay on Oct. 25, 2008, place a banner honoring his memory on the wreath at the Fairfax County Police Fallen Officers Memorial Service on Tuesday, May 17 in the Rose Garden behind the Massey Building in Fairfax City.

Environmental Event

FROM PAGE 15

ing process. Fencing had to be installed to protect against the multitude of deer that roam the plantation; several of the bees decided to fly away and groundhogs continue to be voracious eaters, devouring the entire crop of pea plants.

In addition to radishes and herbs, Lutes said that they have also produced bok choy, kea shoots, lettuces and micro greens.

Produce has been used by chefs at Tallula, Birch & Barley, Vermilion and Evening Star Café.

"They are small amounts – usually just enough for one night's worth for a tasting menu, but it's just one hour lag time between the time that it is picked out of the dirt until it goes to the table," said Lutes.

Businesses and other organizations that use, sell or promote

green and sustainable products will participate in this event that celebrates how the Richmond Highway corridor is becoming a cleaner, safer and greener place to live, work and play.

Several levels of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are still available. A portion of the sponsorship will benefit The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture.

For more information on the event, visit http://www.sfdc.org/sfdc_events.html.

For more information on sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, please contact Tony Fontana at 703-360-5008 or tony.fontana@sfdc.org.

For more information about Arcadia, contact Pat Lute at pat@arcadiafood.org or visit www.arcadiafood.org.